Message Text

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SUBJECT: EC COUNCIL (DEVELOPMENT MINISTERS) MARCH 20: KEY ISSUES

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B) EC BRUSSELS 642

C) USEC A-057

1. ACCORDING TO SOURCES IN THE COMMISSION AND THE UK
PERMDEL THE NEXT MEETING OF THE EC DEVELOPMENT MINISTERS,
SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 20 WILL TAKE UP A NUMBER OF KEY ELEMENTS
IN EC DEVELOPMENT POLICY. THE MAIN POINT ON THE AGENDA
WILL BE EC AID TO THE NON-ASSOCIATED LDCS. THE COUNCIL
WILL DISCUSS A COMMISSION PROPOSAL (TRANSMITTED TO
EUR/RPE) WHICH FOLLOWS UP THE SUGGESTIONS PRESENTED IN ITS
"FRESCO" OF LAST AUTUMN (REFTELS A AND B). SPECIFICALLY,
THE COMMISSION PROPOSES A PROGRAM OF AID TO THE NONASSOCIATED LDCS (I.E. MOSTLY FORMER BRITISH COLONIES
SUCH AS INDIA, ETC.) RISING FROM 100 MILLION UNITS OF
ACCOUNT (UA) IN 1976 TO 200 MILLION UA PER YEAR IN 1980.
UK PERMDEL CONTACTS SAY THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL, WHILE
NOT QUITE WHAT UK DEVELOPMENT MINISTER JUDITH HART WANTS IN
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THE WAY OF PARITY OF EC AID DISBURSEMENTS BETWEEN ASSOCIATED

AND NON-ASSOCIATED LDCS, IS NEVERTHELESS ATTRACTIVE AND THEY EXPECT THE COUNCIL WILL GIVE THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION. SOME MEMBER STATES, NOTABLY FRANCE AND GERMANY, MAY RAISE DIFFICULTIES, HOWEVER.

2. OTHER ISSUES ALSO ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE HARMONIZATION OF MEMBER STATE AID POLICY (COMMISSION PROPOSAL TRANSMITTED TO EUR/RPE), FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO COMMISSION PROPOSALS FOR THE EC'S FOOD AID PROGRAM FOR 1975/76, A REPORT ON THE DISPOSITION OF THE COMMUNITY'S SECOND INSTALLMENT OF AID (\$100 M) TO THE MSAS (REFTELS B AND C) AND, WE ARE TOLD, SOME DISCUSSION MAY TAKE PLACE CONCERNING THE UPCOMING 7TH SPECIAL SESSION OF UNGA. GREENWALD

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